

REMARKS

In the Office action claims 1-6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carbonetti in view of Shaffer and Dengler; claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carbonetti in view of Shaffer and Dengler and Marietta; claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carbonetti in view of Shaffer and Dengler and Matushita; claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carbonetti in view of Shaffer and Dengler and Platsch; and claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carbonetti in view of Shaffer and Dengler and Tholome.

The claims have been amended to use clearer language. Claim 14 is canceled as being redundant with currently amended claim 1. Claim 1 has been further amended to include the recitals of previous claim 13, now canceled.

As to the rejections on the merits, while Applicants generally traverse the rejections based on combinations of three and sometimes four references as rendering the claims obvious, it is noted that amended claim 1 recites that the movable second pipe joints are electrically grounded when disengaged from said first pipe joint and electrical ungrounded when engaged with said first pipe joint. The art of record makes no suggestion or motivation of this aspect of the invention. The Office action states that Tholome suggests electrically grounding circuits when not in use. But such is not the subject matter of claim 1. Tholome teaches at col. 5, lines 18-26, that the electrical generator may be reduced to zero volts at any time, and further states that the product distribution circuit is grounded. Tholome makes no suggestion to electrically ground disengaged pipe joints and to unground the engaged pipe joint. Quite the opposite, in Tholome the used source is always grounded because the sprayer and product distribution circuit are grounded, and the flow path thus could not be ungrounded. As a result, in Tholome the voltage must be reduced to zero prior to a color change cycle is started (col. 6, lines 58-61) Applicants further traverse the rejections of the dependent claims but will defer detailed comment pending further examination of claim 1.

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Art Unit: 1734

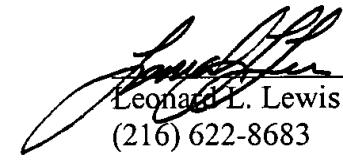
Examiner: M. Lazor

Date: January 16, 2004

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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